

Greets Newsmen After Victory

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.



FACED BY A BATTERY of heartless newsmen at his first press conference since his election to the City Council, Ben Davis, handled himself nicely and came out with much praise from the interrogators. Seated on the right of Mr. Davis, extreme left of the picture facing camera, is Joseph Ford, secretary of the People's Committee, which supported the candidate. This picture shows Mr. Davis pondering a question. Other in the picture, left to right from Mr. Davis are Dr. George D. Cannon, who was chairman of the Non-Partisan Committee to Elect Ben Davis; Mrs. Audley Moore, campaign manager, and the Rev. Ethelred Brown, Unitarian minister and Davis booster.

Ben Davis Sr.--GOP Stalwart; Ben Davis Jr.--C. P. Radical

Stocky Georgia-born Benjamin J. Davis, whose early life was imbued with the tradition of the Republican party, but who in recent years has been a true member of the Communist party, told a news conference Saturday morning what he believes was responsible for his election to New York City Council on November 2.

Ben's father, Benjamin J. Davis, Ga. where he was born because he has been such as to cast his life and the elder, once a most powerful figure in the Republican Party of which he was National Committee man from Georgia, is mighty proud of his son. When informed of young Ben's victory, the aged politician said feebly:

"Communists Didn't Elect Him"
"Quit kidding, the Communist Party never elects anybody. All it does is run candidates. But Ben wasn't kidding. He had won, thus becoming the first Negro Communist ever to win an election office in the United States."

During the press conference Davis didn't bother to go into his personal history. He said little about the time he was suspended from college at Morehouse in Atlanta.

Ben Davis' Background

On the other hand the councilman-elect was somewhat moody as he discussed his experience at Harvard Law School where he had gone following his graduation at Amherst college. It seems that his scholastic record had made him eligible for membership in one of the exclusive campus societies, but his color blocked his admittance.

In spite of his early background and the fact that many of his friends as well as a powerful friends all national and racial origins, of his father are conservative religious and political beliefs who saw their politics, Ben's own experience in his candidacy afforded him an opportunity to

be represented by a councilman fully devoted to the defeat of Hitlerism abroad and to the defeat of all fascist manifestations at home. Jim crow, anti-semitism and racial discrimination of all forms must be outlawed in our city, as a necessity for victory, he said.

His Program

The councilman-elect said that his work in the council will be carried on through a broad program, principal parts of which will be the drive for jobs and for better housing for Negroes and other low-level minority peoples. In addition he said he will be ever ready to stop jim crow in its vicious track wherever and whenever his encounters it.

On the question of the war Davis said it is useless to talk about post-war problems unless we win the war. He then emphasized the imperativeness of effecting the unity necessary for victory.

Backs the War Effort

"I shall support every genuine win-the-war measure introduced in the council, no matter with what party it originates," he said. "I shall work tirelessly in the fight against jim crow and anti-semitism, for the elimination of racial discrimination from the Stevesant Project, in fighting discrimination against Negroes on the faculties of our city colleges, in fighting discrimination in Nurse Training, in fighting for a Public Market in Harlem and for better educational and recreational facilities."

Davis said also that he will press for the investigation of the text books used in the schools and colleges and for an investigation of the Public Utilities and all other industries which discriminate against workers because of race, creed, color or political affiliation.

"Choice of the People"

Calling himself the choice of the people and indirectly taking a slap at the charges that his campaign was based on race and class issues, Davis said:

"I was elected by a coalition of Negro and white citizens affiliated with the Communist, Democratic, Republican and Labor Parties as well as by the independent voter. This unity of the people cut through old established Party labels. He attributes this unity to what he stands for and not the result of party affiliation."

"It is crystal clear," he said "that it cannot be said I was elected by Harlem alone or by the Communist alone. Therefore, I consider myself not only the Communist Party representative in the Council, but rather the representative of all the people". The council post is for two years and pays \$5,000 a year. Mr. Davis is a bachelor.

— J. J. ADAMS.

45-1943

New York Times

New York, N. Y.

OLD PLAN FOR NEGROES

Return to Africa Advocated in
Colonial Times

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — Describing the efforts of both white and Negro protagonists to effect an African recolonization by Negroes of the United States, Dr. Brainerd Dyer, in the Pacific Historical Review, shows how this project has persisted since colonial times.

Without discussing the justice or practicability of the venture, Dr. Dyer offers a historical survey important to the Negro problem, dating from a Virginian regulation in 1691 to Senator Bilbo's 1939 bill for voluntary migration to Liberia.

Dr. Dyer is associate professor of history on the Los Angeles campus of the University of California.